GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5448
ANSWERED ON:06.04.2017
Construction of Neradi Barrage
Tarai Smt. Rita

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of issues to be resolved for construction of Neradi Barrage;

(b) the rationale behind proposal of constructing Katragada Side Weir Project by the Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the effects of the said weir project in Vanshadhra river meanderings; and

(d) the time by which the issues for Neradi Barrage are to be resolved and the efforts made/to be made by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) As per Statement of Case filed before Vansadhara Water Disputes Tribunal (VWDT) by the State of Andhra Pradesh, "the main grievance is that the State of Odisha is not honouring several Inter-State Agreements on Neradi Barrage and failed to handover the agreed extent of land, thus not allowing the State of Andhra Pradesh to construct Neradi Barrage on some or other objection."

(b) As per Statement of Case filed before VWDT by the State of Andhra Pradesh, "As Neradi Barrage is getting unduly delayed for 5 decades, the State of Andhra Pradesh proposed a temporary measure, "Katragada Side Weir" in its territory for drawal of limited waters, which will not require any land on Odisha side."

(c) As per Statement of Case filed before VWDT by the State of Odisha, "construction of Side Weir Project would deprive drinking water requirement in 18 villages and irrigation requirement in 30,000 acres of land situated on the left bank of inter-State river Vansadhara lying in the territory of the State of Odisha. Diversion of water to the Side Weir Project would eventually dry up the existing river bed towards the left bank which will consequently shift the river besides affecting the groundwater table. The Side Weir Project, in any case, would deprive Odisha of its right to utilize the share of water of Vansadhara as the required and accustomed depth of flow for drawing the water would not be available."

(d) Government of Odisha had filed a complaint under Section 3 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956 with the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation on 14.02.2006 seeking constitution of an Inter-State Water Disputes Tribunal. The State of Andhra Pradesh also filed a complaint dated 28.07.2009 with regard to objections of Odisha to the construction of Neradi Barrage. Accordingly, the Central Government constituted Vansadhara Water Disputes Tribunal (VWDT) under Section 4 of the ISRWD Act, 1956 vide Notification No. 465(E) dated 24th February, 2010. As per the ISRWD Act, 1956, VWDT is required to submit its report and decision within five years from the effective date of constitution of the Tribunal. As such, the matter is pending before VWDT and as such sub judice. Outcome of the matter in the VWDT is awaited.

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